

Winter 1996

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Lehrer, H. R. (1996). The Corporate Aviation Management Committee (CAMC): A New Academic Partnership for Aviation. *Journal of Aviation/Aerospace Education & Research*, 6(2). Retrieved from <https://commons.erau.edu/jaaer/vol6/iss2/3>

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EDITORIAL

THE CORPORATE AVIATION MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (CAMC): A NEW ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIP FOR AVIATION

A significant event of great importance to members of the higher education community and the business aviation industry occurred in Atlanta recently. The event was the last meeting and preparation of the final report for the University Aviation Association (UAA) and the National Business Aircraft Association (NBAA) Corporate Aviation Management Committee (CAMC). This report was completed following several years of productive work. The significance of the event was that this was the first time that members of the academic community and a specific segment of the aviation community jointly planned for and prepared a segment-specific curriculum.

The CAMC was formed in 1993 as a co-operative effort between UAA and NBAA to prepare a course of study that would focus not directly on flight-related matters that are unique to corporate aviation but on the management side of business aviation. It had been felt for some time that a void or weakness existed in the corporate aviation sector of the industry. It seemed that the corporate aviation manager was often a pilot first and a manager second, not through design but as a result of events. The career ladder that often existed in flight departments was that ultimately, when pilots became managers, they often did not have formal training in the management sciences. While many managers possess an internal sense of "what are the right things to do and when," there was a concern among NBAA members that additional training and education was needed.

Several surveys were sent to NBAA members at all management levels, and to pilots asking what knowledge, skills, and attitudes were required so that managers could more effectively and efficiently do their jobs. Armed with the results of these surveys and relying on their own experiences, a committee of four UAA educators and four NBAA members was formed to tackle the issues. Through a series of meeting in the past 3 years, a general curriculum has emerged; this curriculum focuses on four major subject areas:

- Business Administration
- Aviation Management
- Communication

Leadership

The intent of this curriculum is to outline (through the use of performance objectives for each knowledge area and the subject content contained therein) the knowledge, skills, and attitudes that are needed to assist today's manager and to better prepare tomorrow's leaders in meeting the unique demands of business aviation.

Currently, the framework for future educational offerings is in place but still quite generic. It is now time for members of higher education aviation programs and their institutions to add depth to this curriculum. This depth can take the form of several different offerings whether it is a series of short courses, weekend classes, distance learning, or independent study programs. While the mechanism for final dissemination of the curriculum has not been decided by the Boards of UAA and NBAA, the road appears to be clear ahead for academe to prepare and deliver a quality educational experience to a whole new set of learners, corporate aviation managers present and future.

HRL